

PRESS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida

PAUL I. PEREZ UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

400 North Tampa Street Suite 3200 Tampa, Florida 33602 813/274-6000 813/274-6300 (Fax) 300 North Hogan Street Suite 700 Jacksonville, Florida 32201 904/301-6300 904/301-6310 (Fax) 501 West Church Street Suite 300 Orlando, Florida 32805 407/648-7500 407/648-7643 (Fax) 2110 First Street, Suite 3-137 Fort Myers, Florida 33901 239/461-2200 239/461-2219 (fax)

Contact: Steve Cole ♦ Public Affairs Specialist ♦ 813/274-6352

For Immediate Release

April 8, 2004

BRADENTON RESIDENT NICOLE CLARE CAPOBIANCO PLEADS GUILTY IN HEROIN OVERDOSE DEATH

Tampa, Florida - United States Attorney Paul I. Perez today announced that Nicole Clare Capobianco, a 23 year old resident of Bradenton, Florida, pleaded guilty before United States District Court Judge Susan C. Bucklew this morning to distribution of heroin that caused the overdose death of Michael Andrew Tippery, Jr., age 23, also of Brandenton, on June 7, 2003. Capobianco faces a mandatory minimum term of twenty years' imprisonment up to life imprisonment and a fine of \$1million for distributing the heroin that caused the death of Michael Andrew Tippery, Jr.. Capobianco is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge Bucklew at 8:30 a.m., on July 8, 2004.

The case was investigated by the Manatee County Sheriffs Office and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kathy J.M. Peluso.